

than themselves. In order to see results, we must continue to fight, further their legacy and their work each and every day.

On a personal note, it is never lost on me that I get to walk the Halls of Congress today because four little Black girls lost their lives, so they can't.

□ 1015

It is humbling and inspiring to know that my very presence in this institution was because of the personal sacrifice of others. I was honored that my first bill to pass Congress was to pay tribute to Addie Mae Collins, to Carole, to Cynthia, and to Denise posthumously, when the Congress of the United States gave a Congressional Gold Medal in 2013 on the 50th anniversary of their deaths.

I want to thank Pastor Price and the amazing congregation of 16th Street Baptist Church in Birmingham, who tirelessly keep the flame and memory of this tragic incident alive and preserves this historic church for future generations.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of the Seventh Congressional District and the State of Alabama, I ask my colleagues to join me in remembering the 55th observance of the 16th Street Baptist Church bombing and in honoring the life and legacy of four little girls, Addie Mae Collins, Denise McNair, Carole Robertson, and Cynthia Morris Wesley.

The events 55 years ago shaped the future of our Nation and continues to have a lasting impact on our quest for equal justice and our pursuit for a more perfect union.

RECOGNIZING ABE AND TRISH HARPSTER AS 2018 ANGELS IN ADOPTION HONOREES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. THOMPSON) for 5 minutes.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Abe and Trish Harpster of Spruce Creek, Pennsylvania.

Abe and Trish were recently chosen as the Congressional Coalition on Adoption's 2018 Angels in Adoption Honorees for their extraordinary contributions to adoption.

I proudly nominated the Harpsters for this honor because they truly are generous and selfless individuals.

The Harpsters have successfully adopted three of their children: Logan, Riley, and Teagan. Trish works in sales and Abe runs his family's dairy farm in Huntingdon County. Both feel extraordinarily blessed and lucky to be parents of these three great kids.

Having attempted several adoptions, Abe and Trish like to share their adoption stories and act as a resource for parents beginning the process. They are passionate about improving Federal laws and regulations to ensure more children are connected with a permanent, loving family.

Every year the Harpsters host a fly-fishing tournament on their family farm. The money raised from this event goes directly to the Centre County Youth Services Bureau.

This nonprofit organization has been strengthening children and families since 1968. They work to provide every child with the opportunity to reach their full potential.

Last year's fishing event raised more than \$60,000 for the Youth Services Bureau, and in the coming years, the Harpsters hope to raise even more for this great organization.

Later this month, Angels in Adoption honorees from across the country will arrive in Washington, D.C., to be celebrated for their great contributions.

I look forward to meeting Abe and Trish to congratulate them on this outstanding honor and discuss child welfare issues as well as their own personal experiences with the adoption process.

For the past 20 years, Angels in Adoption has celebrated individuals, couples, and organizations from across the country that have made an extraordinary contribution on behalf of children in need: everyday heroes, or in this case angels, like the Harpsters, who never seek recognition but wholeheartedly deserve it.

I look forward to congratulating Abe and Trish in person.

Madam Speaker, I would also like to note that this past Sunday was National Grandparents Day. In honor of this special day, we must not forget the outstanding work being done by the foster grandparents across the country.

The Foster Grandparent Program is a part of the Senior Corps of the Cooperation for National and Community Service.

This program provides a way for volunteers age 55 and over to serve as role models, mentors, and friends to children with exceptional needs.

In the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, there are more than 10,000 Senior Corps volunteers. These volunteers have touched the lives of so many children by tutoring more than 4,000 young people in Pennsylvania alone. And, Madam Speaker, these foster grandparents provide the kind of guidance and love that set children on the path towards a successful future.

I look forward to celebrating Abe and Trish Harpster, and want to recognize all those who play an important role in the lives of young people. There is no greater gift to give than time, love, and support to a child in need.

RECOGNIZING NOTHING BUT NETS FOR WORK AGAINST MALARIA

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, recently I met with a constituent who works with the grassroots organization Nothing But Nets, which raises awareness in the fight against malaria.

As you may know, malaria is transmitted to people through mosquitoes carrying the disease. In 2016, there

were 216 million new cases of malaria worldwide and 445,000 deaths, 70 percent of which were children under five. Malaria takes the life of a child every 2 minutes.

Most malaria cases and deaths occur in sub-Saharan Africa, but Southeast Asia, Latin America, and the Middle East are also at risk.

Malaria is a treatable, preventable disease, but half the world's population lives in danger of contracting the parasite from a simple mosquito bite.

U.S. leadership is critical to the elimination of malaria around the world and we have helped to create and expand lifesaving interventions like long-lasting insecticide-treated bed nets, indoor residual spray, and rapid diagnostic tests.

Our continued leadership is critical in finally eliminating malaria around the world. I look forward to the day when we can eradicate malaria once and for all.

INVESTMENTS IN OUR NATION'S WATER SYSTEMS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York (Mr. TONKO) for 5 minutes.

Mr. TONKO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to urge my colleagues to support much needed investments in our Nation's water systems.

Earlier this year, EPA estimated some \$472 billion is needed to maintain the Nation's drinking water infrastructure over the next 20 years.

We have woefully underinvested in drinking water for far too long, and now crumbling pipes and failing systems pose a serious threat to public health and public safety.

Later today, the House is expected to vote on S. 3021, America's Water Infrastructure Act, the latest iteration of WRDA.

It is a good bill, the result of bipartisan and bicameral negotiations.

I am incredibly proud of the work done by both majority and minority members of the Energy and Commerce Committee on H.R. 3387, the Drinking Water System Improvement Act, which was reported out of committee unanimously in July of 2017. Nearly all of that bill has been incorporated into S. 3021.

I would like to highlight a number of the provisions that I am pleased were included in the final package.

Since 2014, I have introduced legislation to reauthorize the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund, the primary source of Federal funding for our water systems. Since its creation, the program has never been reauthorized, and funding has been flat, despite the growing needs in our communities.

S. 3021 would increase the authorization from \$1 billion annually until it reaches a \$1.95 billion level in fiscal year 2021.

In addition to providing significantly increased funding through the SRF, I want to mention a number of other provisions.